

REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed and considered the Office Action dated September 25, 2008, and the references cited therein. In the Office Action, claims 31-42 were rejected and claim 46 was objected to. Claims 43-45 stand allowed.

In response to the Office Action, claims 46, 33 and 39-42 have been amended, and claims 31, 32 and 36-38 have been canceled, without prejudice. As a result, claims 33-35 and 39-46 are pending in the present application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 31 and 4-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,203,590 (Byrd).

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), claim 37 was rejected as unpatentable over Byrd, claims 33 and 38 were rejected as unpatentable over Byrd in view of U.S. Patent 5,019,060 (Goosen), and claims 34 and 35 were rejected as unpatentable over the Byrd/Goosen combination in view of U.S. Patent 5,195,995 (Walker).

Allowed claims

The allowance of claims 43-45 is acknowledged and appreciated.

Amendments

Claim 46 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, incorporating the recitations of claims 31 and 32 on which it depended. It is, therefore, in allowable form.

Claims 31, 32 and 36-38 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 33 and 39-42 have been formally amended to depend from amended claim 46, and are allowable for the same reasons, further in view of their additional recitations.

The amendments are formal in nature, and obviate the §§ 102 and 103 rejections.

Conclusion

No additional fees should be due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension fees or other relief which may be required, or credit any overpayment and notify us of same, to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

The application now stands in allowable form, and entry, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer Number 25763

Date:

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By:

David E. Bruhn

David E. Bruhn, Reg. No. 36,762
(612) 340-6317